

Appl. No. 10/661684
Amdt. Dated September 16, 2008
Reply to Office action of June 16, 2008

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A zippered closure comprising:

a front zipper profile ~~and a back zipper profile, the front and back zipper profiles~~
each having a base portion and a finger extending from the base portion and positioned
between lateral ends of the base portion, the base portion having a substantially flat facing
side surface and an attaching side surface opposite the facing side surface, the finger
extending in a generally transverse direction from the facing side surface of the base
portion,

a back zipper profile having a base with opposed ends and two opposed flanges
with a channel formed therebetween, the base having a generally flat attaching side
surface and opposed lateral ends with each of the two opposed flanges respectively
extending from each lateral end, each of the two flanges having opposed lateral edges that
extend upwardly and outwardly from the base and terminate in an upwardly facing side
surface, a first distance measured along a line parallel to the base and connecting points
of the opposed lateral edges is greater than a second distance measured between the
opposed ends of the base,

wherein the channel extends from the facing side surface towards the attaching
side surface, and

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~~the front and back zipper profiles interlocking along their facing sides, the front zipper profile having a finger extending from the facing side and positioned between a first pair of opposed lateral flanges, each of the first pair of opposed lateral flanges having a first generally flat facing surface, the back zipper profile having a channel positioned between a second pair of opposed lateral flanges, each of the second pair of opposed lateral flanges having a second generally flat facing surface, wherein the finger is being positioned in the channel and the substantially flat facing side surface of the front zipper profile abuts the substantially flat facing side surface of the back zipper profile first flat facing surface abutting the second flat facing surface, and wherein the facing side of at least one of the front and back zipper profiles is wider than its attaching side.~~

2. (Original) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the attaching side of the front zipper profile is attached to a first bag film, and the attaching side of the back zipper profile is attached to a second bag film.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the facing side of the back zipper profile is wider than the attaching side.

5. (Currently Amended) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the ~~back zipper profile has edges extending~~ opposed lateral edges of the two flanges extend outwardly

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from the attaching side of the base to ~~[[a]]~~ an intermediate point in the thickness direction, and then inwardly at which point the opposed lateral edges begin to extend laterally inwardly as they extend towards toward the facing side.

6. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one~~ finger is rounded at its top edges.

9. (Currently amended) A bag, the bag having a mouth and a zippered closure at the mouth, the zippered closure comprising:

~~a front zipper profile and a back zipper profile, the front and back zipper profiles each having a facing side and an attaching side, the front and back zipper profiles interlocking along their facing sides, the front zipper profile having a finger extending from the facing side and positioned between a first pair of opposed lateral flanges, each of the first pair of opposed lateral flanges having a first generally flat facing surface, the back zipper profile having a channel positioned between a second pair of opposed lateral flanges, each of the second pair of opposed lateral flanges having a second generally flat facing surface, the finger being positioned in the channel and the first flat facing surface abutting the second flat facing surface, and wherein the facing side of at least one of the front and back zipper profiles is wider than its attaching side~~

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a front zipper profile having a base portion and a finger extending from the base portion and positioned between lateral ends of the base portion, the base portion having a substantially flat facing side surface and an attaching side surface opposite the facing side surface, the finger extending in a generally transverse direction from the facing side surface of the base portion,

a back zipper profile having a base with opposed ends and two opposed flanges with a channel formed therebetween, the base having a generally flat attaching side surface and opposed lateral ends with each of the two opposed flanges respectively extending from each lateral end, each of the two flanges having opposed lateral edges that extend upwardly and outwardly from the base and terminate in an upwardly facing side surface, a first distance measured along a line parallel to the base and connecting points of the opposed lateral edges is greater than a second distance measured between the opposed ends of the base,

wherein the finger is positioned in the channel and the substantially flat facing side surface of the front zipper profile abuts the substantially flat facing side surface of the back zipper profile.

10. (Original) The bag of claim 9, wherein the attaching side of the front zipper profile is attached to a first bag film, and the attaching side of the back zipper profile is attached to a second bag film.

11. (Canceled)

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12. (Original) The bag of claim 9, wherein the facing side of the back zipper profile is wider than the attaching side.

13. (Currently Amended) The bag of claim 9, wherein the ~~back zipper profile has edges extending opposed lateral edges of the two flanges extend~~ outwardly from the attaching side of the base to [[a]] an intermediate point in the thickness direction, and then inwardly at which point the opposed lateral edges begin to extend laterally inwardly as they extend towards ~~toward~~ the facing side.

14. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) The bag of claim 9, wherein the ~~at least one~~ finger is rounded at its top edges.

17. (Currently amended) A method of making a bag having a zippered closure comprising the steps of:

providing a first bag film;

providing a second bag film in substantial registration with the first bag film;

providing a zippered closure having a front zipper profile and a back zipper profile, ~~wherein the front and back zipper profiles each have a facing side and an attaching side, the front and back zipper profiles interlocking along their facing sides, the~~

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~~front zipper profile having a finger extending from the facing side and positioned between a first pair of opposed lateral flanges, each of the first pair of opposed lateral flanges having a first generally flat facing surface, the back zipper profile having a channel positioned between a second pair of opposed lateral flanges, each of the second pair of opposed lateral flanges having a second generally flat facing surface, the finger being positioned in the channel and the first flat facing surface abutting the second flat facing surface, and wherein the facing side of at least one of the front and back zipper profiles is wider than its attaching side~~ the front zipper profile having a base portion and a finger extending from the base portion and positioned between lateral ends of the base portion, the base portion having a substantially flat facing side surface and an attaching side surface opposite the facing side, the finger extending in a generally transverse direction from the facing side surface of the base portion, the back zipper profile having a base with opposed ends and two opposed flanges with a channel formed therebetween, the base having a generally flat attaching side surface and opposed lateral ends with each of the two opposed flanges respectively extending from each lateral end, each of the two flanges having opposed lateral edges that extend upwardly and outwardly from the base and terminate in an upwardly facing side surface, a first distance measured along a line parallel to the base and connecting points of the opposed lateral edges is greater than a second distance measured between the opposed ends of the base, wherein the finger is positioned in the channel and the substantially flat facing side surface of the front zipper profile abuts the substantially flat facing side surface of the back zipper profile;

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guiding the zippered closure to a desired location between the first bag film and second bag film; and

attaching the front zipper profile to the first film via the front zipper profile attaching side surface and the back zipper profile to the second film via the second zipper profile attaching side surface.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the attaching side of the front zipper profile is attached to the first bag film, and the attaching side of the back zipper profile is attached to the second bag film.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the facing side of the back zipper profile is wider than the attaching side.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~back zipper profile~~ has edges extending opposed lateral edges of the two flanges extend outwardly from the attaching side of the base to [[a]] an intermediate point in the thickness direction, and then inwardly at which point the opposed lateral edges begin to extend laterally inwardly towards as they extend towards toward the facing side.

22. – 23. (Canceled)

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24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the ~~at least one~~ finger is rounded at its top edges.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of attaching is performed by heat sealing the front zipper profile to the first film and the back zipper profile to the second film.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of guiding includes a guide having ends shaped to accommodate the edges of the front and back zipper profiles.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the guide includes a pair of rods, and the ends ~~are~~ have an inverted arrow shape shaped.

Please add the following new claims:

28. (New) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the facing side surface of the front zipper profile is wider than the attaching side surface.

29. (New) The bag of claim 9, wherein the facing side surface of the front zipper profile is wider than the attaching side surface.

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30. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the facing side surface of the front zipper profile is wider than the attaching side surface.

31. (New) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein there is substantially no air gap between the narrower of the attaching side surface of the front zipper profile and the attaching side surface of the back zipper profile and a corresponding portion of the other attaching side surface.

32. (New) The bag of claim 9, wherein there is substantially no air gap between the narrower of the attaching side surface of the front zipper profile and the attaching side surface of the back zipper profile and a corresponding portion of the other attaching side surface.

33. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein there is substantially no air gap between the narrower of the attaching side surface of the front zipper profile and the attaching side surface of the back zipper profile and a corresponding portion of the other attaching side surface.

34. (New) The zippered closure of claim 1, wherein the side surfaces of the joined front and back zipper profiles take the shape of an arrow.

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35. (New) The bag of claim 9, wherein the side surfaces of the joined front and back zipper profiles take the shape of an arrow.

36. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the side surfaces of the joined front and back zipper profiles take the shape of an arrow.